

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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R 260950Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6365

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1150

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JA, US, CH

SUBJECT: SOVIETS WOOING JSP VICE CHAIRMAN EDA

SUMMARY. SOVIET AMBASSADOR PROYANOVSKY HAS INVITED JSP VICE CHAIRMAN EDA TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION. EDA RESPONDED CAUTIOUSLY, HOWEVER, UNDERLINING PREFERENCE POLITICIANS ATTACH TO US AND CHINA VISITS THESE DAYS. END SUMMARY.

1. JSP STAFF OFFICIALS TOLD EMBOFFS JANUARY 24 THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR TROYANOVSKY, AT LUNCHEON HE HOSTED FOR JSP VICE CHAIRMAN SABURO EDA JANUARY 20, URGED EDA TO VISIT SOVIET UNION IN NEAR FUTURE AND HELD OUT AS BAIT OPPORTUNITY WHICH EDA THEREBY WOULD HAVE TO RESTATE DIRECTLY TO TOP SOVIET LEADERSHIP JSP POSITION ON NORTHERN TERRITORIES. EDA, ONLY GUEST AT LUNCHEON, REPLIED HE WOULD CONSIDER VISIT BUT ONLY (1) AFTER TRAVELING TO PRC THIS SPRING (JUST CONFIRMED BY CHINESE), AND (2) IF FORMAL INVITATION RECEIVED FROM SOVIET GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO STAFFERS, EDA THEN PROMPTLY LEAKED TO JAPAN ECONOMIC JOURNAL (NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN) SUBSTANCE OF LUNCHEON
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CONVERSATION, INCLUDING TROYANOVSKY'S REPEATED CRITICISM OF

LAST SPRING'S JSP-PRC JOINT STATEMENT OPPOSING HEGEMONY AND EDA'S REJOINDER THAT SOVIET'S CONTINUAL HARPING ON THIS ISSUE PREVENTED RAPPROCHMENT BETWEEN JAPANESE SOCIALISTS AND USSR.

2. COMMENT. AFTER EDA RETURNED FROM WHAT JAPANESE OF ALL POLITICAL PERSUASIONS REGARD AS EXTRAORDINARILY SUCCESSFUL TRIP TO US IN SEPTEMBER, HIS POLITICAL STAR, WANING SINCE HIS CONTROVERSIAL TENURE AS JSP SEC GEN IN MID-1960'S, SUDDENLY BEGAN TO SPARKLE AGAIN. CHINESE AND SOVIETS, IN SENDING INVITATIONS HIS WAY, APPEAR TO TAKE SERIOUSLY POSSIBILITY THAT HE MAY ONCE AGAIN BE SERIOUS CONTENDER FOR TOP JSP POST AND THAT JSP "RIGHTWINGERS" ARE STILL INFLUENTIAL FORCE WITHIN SHARPLY DIVIDED PARTY. EDA'S CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO SOVIET INVITATION AND HIS DECISION TO PUT IT IMMEDIATELY ON THE PUBLIC RECORD INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT JAPANESE POLITICIANS THESE DAYS SEE LITTLE POLITICAL ADVANTAGE TO BE GAINED FROM RESPONDING TO SOVIET OVERTURES AS OPPOSED TO SEEKING ACTIVELY US AND CHINESE INVITATIONS. AS IF TO UNDERSCORE CURRENT UNPOPULARITY OF THE SOVIETS, ANOTHER JSP MISSION VISITING PEKING THIS WEEK RECONFIRMED LAST YEAR'S JOINT STATEMENT AND ONCE AGAIN CRITICISED VARIOUS SOVIET "SIGNS OF HEGEMONY."
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